

Williamson County Recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association

Awards for Excellence in Government Finance



The GFOA's Awards for Excellence in Government Finance recognize innovative programs – contributions to the practice of government finance that exemplify outstanding financial management. The awards stress practical, documented work that offers leadership to the profession and promotes improved public finance. Entries may be submitted for consideration in any of the following Award for Excellence categories:

- Accounting, auditing, and financial reporting
- Budgeting and financial planning
- Capital finance and debt administration
- Economic development and capital planning
- E-Government and technology
- Management and service delivery
- Pensions and benefits
- Treasury and investment management

Eight criteria are examined when considering an application for the award: local significance and value, technical significance, transferability, documentation, the cost/benefit analysis, efficiency, originality, and durability.

The 2014 Award for Excellence in Government Finance

The GFOA's most prestigious awards recognize contributions to the practice of government finance that exemplify outstanding financial management. The awards stress practical, documented work that offers leadership to the profession and promotes improved public finance. This year's Awards for Excellence-winning entries encompass such innovations in areas of capital financing and debt administration, e-government and technology, and pensions and benefits. Williamson County was one of only five governmental agencies recognized this year.



In addition, Williamson County was presented with the Louisville Award for Innovation in Government Finance, awarded occasionally to recognize an exceptional accomplishment that introduces a new concept



or technique with enduring value to the government finance profession. This award is the GFOA's highest honor. It is only the fourth time it's been awarded since 2001. It was awarded because Williamson County went above and beyond to create a Business Intelligence System for the Public Sector, the first fully supported Software as a Service package built by and for the public sector to meet public-sector business intelligence and operational reporting requirements in a manner that is transferable to most other jurisdictions.

Williamson County Creates Business Intelligence System for the Public Sector

Category: e-Government and Technology

When Williamson County, Texas, decided to implement a more sophisticated internal reporting system, it went well beyond an ordinary approach to business intelligence, creating a public-private partnership to develop and implement technology that will now be marketed to other public-sector organizations. The new, cloud-based reporting tool – known as Performance Center – improves reporting capabilities at the operational, staff, management, and taxpayer levels while reducing costs by 95 percent, as compared to a typical business intelligence implementation that would have cost the county approximately \$750,000 to \$1 million over three years. Performance Center is a state-of-the-art package that provides standardized reporting for the unique needs of



government and eliminates the manual, time-intensive processes involved in routine public-sector business practices. Governments have numerous tools available for building custom business intelligence software, but Performance Center is the first fully supported Software as a Service package built by and for the public sector to meet public-sector business intelligence and operational reporting requirements in a manner that is transferable to most other jurisdictions.

David U. Flores, Williamson County Auditor, and David Dukes, Assistant Financial Director, accepted the Award for Excellence and the Louisville Award for Innovation at the annual GFOA conference in May.